



# Seattle City Council

August 4, 2014

Dr. Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
White Oak Building  
10903 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-001

Commissioner Hamburg:

We join Seattle Mayor Edward Murray, the American Medical Association, and the Puget Sound Blood Center to ask you to lift the lifetime ban on blood donations from men who have sex with men.

Denying gay and bisexual men the opportunity to donate blood based on their sexual orientation is an outdated and discriminatory practice. We've advanced in our medical knowledge of HIV transmission and know transmission depends on behavioral risk factors. Donor screening for gay and bisexual men should be the same as for all other people and be based on a risk assessment of behaviors, rather than on sexual orientation.

Many of us are regular donors to Seattle's blood drives. The City of Seattle offers paid time off for employees who wish to donate to City sponsored blood drives. We recognize the importance of a sustained and healthy blood supply. We have also heard from members of our City's LGBT employees association, SEqual, who are willing and ready to donate. It's time to change the policy so that people can give to our nation's blood supply regardless of sexual orientation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Burgess", positioned above a horizontal line.

Council President Tim Burgess

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally J. Clark", positioned above a horizontal line.

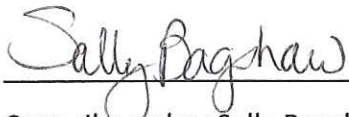
Councilmember Sally J. Clark

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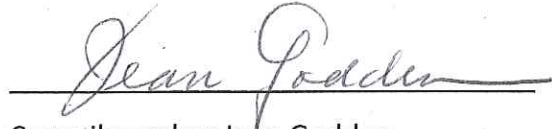
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<http://www.cityofseattle.gov/council>

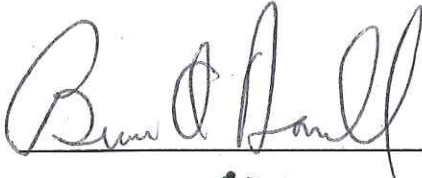
An EEO employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.



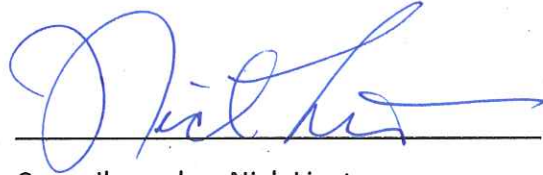
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember Jean Godden



Councilmember Bruce Harrell



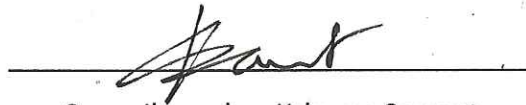
Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember Tom Rasmussen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant